

Advancing Towards a Sustainable Energy in Eastern Caribbean States

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS), with the support of the European Union Energy Initiative – ACP-EU Energy Facility, is the executing agency for the [Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program \(CSEP\) Project](http://www.sepa-americas.net/proyectos_detalle.php?ID=6) (see: http://www.sepa-americas.net/proyectos_detalle.php?ID=6), in coordination with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM Secretariat), the Caribbean Electric Utility Association (CARILEC), and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). A significant component of the project involves **facilitating** the adoption of energy policies and legislation in seven Eastern Caribbean Island **states** pertaining to the market conditions for the development and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency systems by mitigating the barriers to their use.

To advance the sustainable energy agenda in Dominica and St. Lucia, the OAS will convene several gatherings on November 18-20, 2009 in Roseau and Castries with relevant government stakeholders, including the public utilities. The purpose of these gatherings will be to discuss the draft National Energy Policies (NEP) developed for both countries. In the case of Dominica, the NEP has been prepared by the GS/OAS with the support of Isada Consulting Group, a consultancy hired under the CSEP project. In St. Lucia, the NEP was drafted by the CREDP/GTZ Program and is being supported and modified by the CSEP project.

In addition, the Government of Dominica will host a national workshop on November 20th to present the program activities for the further development of the geothermal energy project in the Wotten Waven area of Dominica. The initial technical and policy work on this project was carried out by the GS/OAS with the financial support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as the Eastern Caribbean Geothermal Development Program or Geo-Caraïbes. In the current phase the funding is provided by the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), the Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the European Commission and is expected to elaborate a comprehensive development plan leading to exploratory drilling for the geothermal resource.

In the case of St. Lucia, CARILEC, Solar Dynamics St. Lucia Limited, CREDP and the St. Lucia National Council on Public Transport are hosting an [Energy Awareness Week 2009](http://cipore.org/saint-lucia-begins-early-observance-of-energy-awareness-week-2009/) (see: <http://cipore.org/saint-lucia-begins-early-observance-of-energy-awareness-week-2009/>) from November 22-28, 2009 under the theme, "Combating Climate Change through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency". The aim of the annual observance is to promote energy consciousness and education at the national level. A number of activities are scheduled to take place during the actual Energy Awareness Week including a one day consultation on November 24, 2009 with government officials and key public utilities personnel, hosted by the OAS. The purpose of which is to obtain a commitment from the key energy stakeholders towards the refinement and adoption of the draft National Energy Policy (NEP).